



March and April 2003

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

10th
Birthday

1993

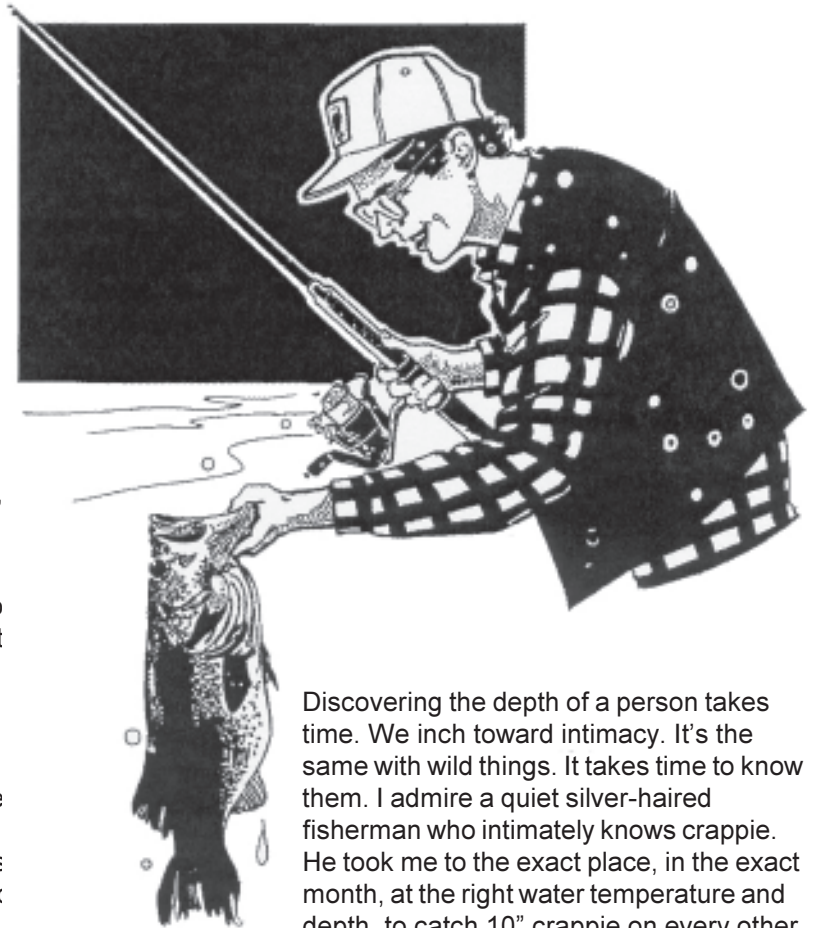
2003

I met a man yesterday. He was in his early sixties, with smile wrinkles by his eyes, salt and pepper hair, and a knee-high granddaughter tugging on his fingers. It was a momentary, polite meeting exchanging niceties and weather forecasts. The tugging rose to pulling and away he went.

I had a glimpse of a person, a snapshot of sorts. There was not time to look at his full circle of life – where he began, how he had lived, and where he was headed. It was as if I just caught him in a frame of time.

Sometimes I think we see wildlife in such a way. We have so many fleeting meetings with saucy squirrels or winter-hungry birds. We hear the crow shout warning when we shuffle through crunchy leaf carpet. Maybe we've even had the privilege to watch three eggs turn to three scrawny beaks to three fluffy fledglings. But, for most of anymore, we're not in nature long enough to really get to know her. We somehow think these chance meetings with wildlife tell us the whole story.

I don't know the skunk very well that waddles from my woodpile to the rocky creek at night. Just one or two meetings doesn't mean I know her life story. I need to see her live for awhile. Watch her movements through the seasons, check for neatly oval footprints in muddy banks when a frog has become skunk dinner. Smell her faint odor in the barn where she raises four hardy young ones. Wash her strong odor off of my black and white dog who just wanted to be friends.



Discovering the depth of a person takes time. We inch toward intimacy. It's the same with wild things. It takes time to know them. I admire a quiet silver-haired fisherman who intimately knows crappie. He took me to the exact place, in the exact month, at the right water temperature and depth, to catch 10" crappie on every other cast. He's spent decades getting to know this fish and where it lives. If you spend that long on one animal, you're bound to learn about others. That seems to be how it is with most anglers and hunters – they may seek one or two types of fish or game, but over time they accumulate encounters with many.

There's a bigger picture to be captured. We need more than a long look at nature. Our view needs to be cumulative – observing throughout an animal's life cycle and throughout ours. Imagine as our own life's seasons change – coming full circle, we have the privilege to see many smaller circles of creature lifetimes.

Invest in intimacy with nature. It only takes a lifetime.

Jan Syrigos, Naturalist

Getting to Know You



Volunteer News



Twenty-four Runge volunteers helped visitors spot live bald eagles in January at Lake Ozark Eagle Days 2003, where 2,801 people attended. Live eagle programs were at Willmore Lodge, and eagle viewing stations were set up at the lodge, on the paddlewheeler *Tom Sawyer*, and the Bagnell Dam access. Thanks, volunteers!



Thank You. . .

To the Lake Ozark **Wal-Mart** for their generous donation toward our Eagle Days and **Dunkle Distributing** for their generous donation to our Conservation Kids' Club.

Exhibits for March and April

Lloyd and Ann Grotjan

This exhibit will feature pottery and sculpture by Ann and large black-and-white and color prints by Lloyd. Ann works mostly with clay, and the inspiration for her work is generally organic, whether it is abstract or realistic. Lloyd is a local photographer and musician. Much of Lloyd's inspiration comes from nature.



Do you have your passport, yet? Runge will be 10 years old in July but we are already celebrating. Bring your 10th *Birthday Passport* to any Runge-sponsored event to get a stamp. When you have 10 stamps turn in your passport for a special birthday gift. If you visit us during the **Naturescape Symposium on March 15th** you will receive a **BONUS** stamp!

Need a passport? Have a question? Call us at 573/526-5544.

Wildlifers' Quilt Show

April 26 10 AM - 4 PM

April 27 1 PM - 4 PM

Come see the handiwork of the Wildlifers group! These beautiful quilts display blocks created during the past year from the Lewis and Clark series. You'll be amazed by the many ways nature can be interpreted through the eye of a needle.



The Wildlifers are a group of individuals over 50 years of age who meet monthly at the nature center to learn about the featured topic while creating a patchwork block. No reservations required.

Events for... **March**

Registration for all programs begins on Saturday, March 1st.
Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

1 Saturday

Snakes Alive

11 AM -- All Ages

Join us for an excssssssiting and slithering hour with the snakes at Runge. Don't let your fears keep you from exssssssperiencing and learning about these wonderful creatures. No reservations required.

2 Sunday

Circle into Spring!

2 PM -- All Ages

The ole winter weather has kept you cooped up for way too long . . . it's time to break out for a spring hike! Take time this weekend for a refreshing one-mile amble at the Nature Center. Join our naturalist as she leads you down Raccoon Run Trail in search of the very first signs of spring. Watch the woodlands wake from their wintry rest! Reservations required.

8 Saturday

The Runge Hiking Club

8 AM-5:30 PM -- 18 Years and older

See splendid sights! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

As many as 5,000 people may have been living in the area now known as **Van Meter State Park**, when Marquette and Jolliet encountered them in 1673. The explorers recorded their names as *Oumessourit*, which, loosely translated, means "people of the big canoes." The **Loess Hills Trail** (2 miles) is named for windblown glacial dust that produces fertile soil and immense trees. On the **Old Fort Trail** (2 miles), we'll hike over mysterious earthworks thought to pre-date the Missouri Indians. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Saturday

Naturescape Symposium

10 AM - 4 PM -- Adults

Meet the experts! Bring your questions, photos, ideas, and plans and let the experts help you with your naturescaping needs. Refer to back page for additional information. **This program counts as two programs on your Passport.** No reservations required.

20 Thursday & 21 Friday

Woodcock Walk

6 PM -- All Ages

Refer to description for March 14.

23 Sunday

Making Nature Notes About Spring

1 PM -- All Ages (children accompanied by an adult)

Share in our search for early signs of spring. Warmer temperatures and longer days affect even the tiniest residents of Missouri's natural world. We'll be composing notes as we push past the remains of winter and behold nature awakening from its frosty rest. Join this month's session of Nature Notes to sketch and write about the sprigs of spring. Reservations required.

For the little ones . . .

Mother Opossum and her Babies



Strong sniffers, pockets, thumbs - these are just a few of the curious characteristics of North America's only marsupial. Sign up this month and learn about this fascinating creature. Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Thursday, March 6 - 10 AM

Tuesday, March 18 - 10 AM

Tuesday, March 25 - 10 AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Tuesday, March 4 - 10 AM

Saturday, March 8 - 10 AM

Tuesday, March 11 - 6 PM

Thursday, March 13 - 10 AM

Friday, March 21 - 9 AM

Saturday, March 29 - 10 AM

13 Saturday

Hiking Missouri

7 PM -- Adults

Day hiking—one of the most natural and satisfying antidotes to a stressful, modern life. Join Kevin Lohraff, author of *Hiking Missouri*, as we discuss the many benefits of hiking. (One of the benefits is that hiking can take you to some great birding places!) We'll take a look at some hiking gear and gizmos, embark on a whirlwind (slide show) hiking tour, and discover the absolute best places in the state to hike (and bird.) This program is sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. Reservations required.

14 Friday

Woodcock Walk

6 PM -- Adults Only

Peent, peent . . . have you ever witnessed the spectacular mating display of the male woodcock? Join us as we learn about woodcocks, then venture outside on the trails to try to spot them on the nature center grounds. Dress for the weather. Reservations required.

20 Thursday

Wildlifers—Quilt Block

10-11:30 AM, 1-2:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM, and 6-7:30 PM -- 50+ Years

Did you know there are 6 commonly recognized types of feathers, and that they all serve a variety of functions? A colorful feather block will be featured at this Wildlifers program. Reservations required.

27 Thursday

Hunter Education

6-9 PM -- 11 Years and older

Learn how to hunt safely and responsibly. Sign up now for the Missouri Hunter Education course at Runge. Ten hours of instruction are required. Students sixteen years old and under must bring proof of age. Reservations required. Course continues on **March 28** 6 PM - 9 PM and **March 29** 8 AM - Noon.

Events for... April

Registration for all programs begins on Saturday, March 1st.
Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

4 Friday

Part of the Circle

7 PM -- Adults

Take a mini-vacation for the spirit with professional photographer and musician Lloyd Grotjan. Wildlife to wildflowers, savanna to forest, intricate details to sweeping vistas . . . sit back and watch as Lloyd combines the best of his twenty-five years of nature photography with his original music. Combining slide shows, music, and live performance, Lloyd's programs are a feast of sound, sight, color, and feeling. Lloyd's art work will be on display before and after the presentation. Reservations required.

5 Saturday

Painted Rock Conservation Area

8 AM-Noon -- Young Adults (13-17)

Let's hike! Runge teens will be hiking the **Osage Bluff Scenic Trail** located in the **Painted Rock State Forest**. The trail winds through the forest on a bluff overlooking the Osage River. We'll see ancient Indian burial grounds, a great blue heron rookery, and a chance of seeing a bald eagle. Join us as we practice our nature sketching, field guiding, and orienteering. Bring water, backpack, and wear strong, sturdy shoes. Dress for the weather. Reservations Required.

5 Friday

Home Tweet Home

10 AM -- All Ages

Bird houses, yarn, hair from your hairbrush - all of these and more are ways we can provide homes for birds. We'll discuss ways you can attract nesting birds to your yard. Reservations required.

12 Saturday

Rain Showers on our Nature Notes

11 AM -- All Ages (children accompanied by an adult)

On April days in Missouri, towering clouds build in the sky. Lightning flashes and raindrops begin to fall. We will write and draw all that we discover after April's showers. Reservations required.

10 Thursday

Conserving Missouri's Birds

7 PM -- Adults

Take advantage of this interesting opportunity to hear wildlife ecologist Andrew Forbes talk about conserving birds. Andy is the Director of Bird Conservation for Missouri, and this evening you will hear how his unique experiences with various wildlife projects in six different states will contribute to Missouri. This program is sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

12 Saturday

The Runge Hiking Club

8 AM-3 PM -- 18 Years and older

Most springs in Missouri have an obvious, single outlet, but Lane Spring is unusual. Each day, eleven million gallons of water erupt from dozens of underwater "boils" in the loose sand, ranging in size from coins to dinner plates. We'll visit **Lane Spring Recreation Area** and hike the **Blossom Rock Trail** (1 mile) and the **Cedar Bluff Trail** (1 mile). Make a guess as to the origin of the odd, sandstone Blossom Rock. Hike on ridgetop glades, where pine trees grow among the chinkapin oaks. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

24 Thursday

Wildlifery-Quilt Block

10-11:30 AM, 1-2:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM, and 6-7:30 PM -- 50+ Years

See that feisty bird? It's a Blue Jay, one of Missouri's prettiest and "smartest" birds. Wildlifery will enjoy this bird block in their Missouri Sampler quilt. Reservations required.

25 Friday

A Visit With Theodore Roosevelt

7 PM -- All Ages



History comes alive tonight at Runge! Actor Arch Ellwein with the Montana Arts Council will portray our nation's 26th President under whose leadership many conservation measures were realized. Don't miss this opportunity to visit with the President. Reservations required.

26 Saturday & 27 Sunday 5th Annual Wildlifery Quilt Show

Refer to description on page 2. No reservations required.

27 Sunday

Wet N' Wild

2 PM -- All Ages

Explore a marsh or a pond at the nature center. Scoop up tiny wetland creatures that you will learn to identify. Experience the cycles of nature in the wetlands first hand. Reservations required.

For the little ones . . .

Peep, Peep, Peepers



It's a zoo in the goo of our nature center

ponds! We'll search for those little green monsters (frogs) and look at their fascinating life cycle. It's a "hoppy" time! Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Wednesday, April 23 -- 2 PM
Thursday, April 24 -- 10 AM
Tuesday, April 29 -- 11 AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Thursday, April 3 -- 9 AM
Friday, April 4 -- 2 PM
Friday, April 18 -- 1 PM
Saturday, April 19 -- 10 AM
Tuesday, April 22 -- 6 PM

Wild Weekends!

Drop by the nature center any weekend for a visit. There's always something new to do—crafts, hikes, or games especially for you. No need to call, just stop by between 10 AM and Noon on Saturdays or from 1 to 3 PM on Sundays.



Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to one of these meetings and we'll sign you up.

Amphibian Amble

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this meeting.

This will be an indoor/outdoor adventure with state herpetologist Jeff Briggler. We'll start indoors with a look at some live amphibians up close. Then we'll hit the trails to listen, look for, and perhaps even catch amphibians in the wild. Please wear shoes that you don't mind getting muddy. We'll be outside even if it's raining, because amphibians love wet weather!

Stream Team Clean-up

Tuesday, April 15, 2003

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this meeting.

Want to help save a stream? Well, the Conservation Kids' Club has adopted our very own mile of Wears Creek which runs along Moss Rock Trace. It's time for us to get right down in the creek and do some clean-up work. Wear your "OK-if-muddy-grubbies" and roll up your sleeves . . . you're going to make a difference. (Long pants are a must for safety reasons.)

HEY PARENTS!

While big brother/sister attends **Conservation Kids' Club**, your pre-schooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time!

Mother Opossum and her Babies

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

6:00 - 7:00 PM (Ages 3 through 6)

Strong sniffers, pockets, thumbs - these are just a few of the curious characteristics of North America's only marsupial. Join us this month and learn about this fascinating creature.

Peep, Peep, Peepers

Tuesday, April 18, 2003

6:00 - 7:00 PM (Ages 3 through 6)

It's a zoo in the goo of our nature center ponds! We'll search for those little green monsters (frogs) and look at their fascinating life cycle. It's a "hoppy" time!

Scouts...

Call March 1st to make your reservation. If you have a small den or troop, these evening programs are for you! Sign-up now. Space is limited.

Her Story Try-It - Brownies

Wednesday, March 5 - 6:30 PM

Bird Elective - Wolf Cub Scouts

Wednesday, March 19 - 6:30 PM

Eco Explorer Try-It - Brownies

Wednesday, March 26 - 6:30 PM

Naturalist - Webelos Cub Scouts

Wednesday, April 9 - 6:30 PM

Watching Wildlife Try-It - Brownies

Wednesday, April 16 - 6:30 PM

Scout Packs Available

Just a reminder . . . scout leaders can check out packs from the Runge Conservation Nature Center to help their groups work on badges.

The packs available include:

- Wolf Cub Elective #13 – *Birds*
- Cub Scout Achievement #5 – *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*
- Brownie Try It – *Animals*
- Brownie Try It – *Plants*



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BEAUTIFUL, SAFE, AND LITTER FREE

Do your part to keep Missouri litter free. For more information, visit
www.nomoretrash.org

The Heart of Missouri Girl Scout Council is starting a Stream Team! "GO" (Girls Only) Stream Team will kick things off on May 17 with a stream cleanup of Wears Creek at Washington Park in Jefferson City. Litter bags and

gloves will be provided. Come out from 9 AM - Noon. All brownie and girl scout troops are invited. If anyone else is interested, come on out and sign up that day! For information contact Sherry Fischer 573/751-4115 ext. 3169.



Naturescape Symposium

*Naturescaping is a way of
introducing native plants and inviting
wildlife into your own backyard.*

PROGRAMS

10 AM - *Watergardening* The Nation's Number One Landscape Improvement
(Ann Wakeman, Local Landscaper)

11 AM - *Using Natives in your Landscape* Mixing The Wild With The Tame
(Alice Longfellow, Longfellows Nursery)

Noon - *Grow Native!* Native Landscapes That Anyone Can Use From Containers To
Transition Borders To Full Native Conversion Landscapes (Judy Allmon, *Grow Native!* Executive
Director)

1 PM - *The Right Plant for the Right Site* Using Natives For Those Hard-To-Grow-
Anything Areas (George Yatskevych, MDC Botanist and Curator of Missouri Plants at Missouri
Botanical Gardens)

2 PM - *Landowner Opportunities* Getting The Scoop On Cost-Share Programs And
Conservation Planning (MDC Private Lands Division)

3 PM - *Danger Plants* Those Invasive Exotics (Tim Smith, MDC Botanist)

WORKSHOP

1-3 PM - *Seed Propagation* Learn How To Successfully Propagate Your Own Native
Plants From Seed (Seating is limited.)

CRAFTS

For the young and young at heart!

EXHIBITORS

Midwest Block and Brick, Missouri
Wildflowers Nursery, Songbird
Station, *Grow Native!*, Longfellows
Garden Center, MDNR-Solid Waste
Management, House of Butterflies,
Native Plant Society

GUIDED HIKES

- ◆ Establishing your own prairie
- ◆ Bird Watching at Runge
- ◆ Sample Naturescaping in progress
- rock gardens and tetraponds.

Runge Conservation Nature Center

March 15, 2003

10 AM - 4 PM

FREE

Tree seedling & Packet of native plant seeds
(One per family while supplies last.)

No reservations required.

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HABITAT HAPPENINGS
Runge Conservation Nature Center
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102